



July 12, 2006

Dear Community Friends:

#### **Fourth Of July Recap**

We hope you enjoyed the July 4<sup>th</sup> Holiday. As mentioned in previous newsletters, personal fireworks are illegal within Seattle city limits, as they are in other incorporated cities in our region. This year, the Seattle Police Department implemented Fireworks Emphasis Teams to enforce that ban. From June 30<sup>th</sup> through July 4<sup>th</sup>, two officer teams in each precinct were dedicated to enforcing the fireworks ban.

The South team was a huge success, and very busy. They were dispatched to 83 fireworks related 911 calls, conducted 84 proactive location checks, made 22 arrests and logged 21 incident reports. On two occasions, the Arson/Bomb Squad was called out to respond. Estimated value of the illegal fireworks this one team confiscated was \$7000.

***Why is this important?*** Why place such an emphasis on bottle rockets and firecrackers?

- 1) Injury to persons because of carelessness or maliciousness;
- 2) Damage to property because of the same, and;
- 3) Fire danger.

Think about what would happen if a bottle rocket were to land on a dry, cedar-shake roof. And I know some of you have personal stories of youths firing bottle rockets directly at moving cars, or throwing firecrackers at each other and/or having them blow up in their hand or next to someone's ear. Think of the costs (personal and financial), and the resources (fire, medical, police) to respond to property damage, fire, or personal injury. Once you think about it, you'll realize why it's important.

Even though many people knew that fireworks are illegal in the City, they still had and used them. While most fireworks are illegal in the City, they *are* legal in unincorporated King County, thus the fireworks stands Renton Ave S. in Skyway (outside Seattle city limits).

We will have Fireworks Emphasis Teams operating next year. And while there will be more education about the fireworks ban, there will also be more enforcement, confiscation and arrests.

Don't say I didn't warn you.

#### **SEAFAIR**

Seafair is upon us, with numerous community events happening all across our region. (For more information, check [www.seafair.com](http://www.seafair.com)). I bring Seafair up in this forum because there are a number of new occurrences this year during the weekend of August 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> that are going have impacts on our neighborhoods.

In addition to the Blue Angels flyovers Friday and the Hydro time trials and races, there will be a concert in Genesee Park on Saturday, August 5<sup>th</sup>. Following the concert, at 9pm, there will be a night-time pyrotechnic air show and a fireworks show over Lake Washington.

For those who live in the area, it means an increase in foot and vehicular traffic on the arterials and side streets (even those signed Local Access Only). There will be ample police presence and patrol throughout the area during the Seafair events. However, the concert, air show and fireworks show are new events; we have no way to gauge the impact of those events and the influx of people into the neighborhoods. We wanted you to be aware of what was happening and be mindful of the potential impacts.

#### **Night Out**

National Night Out Against Crime 2006, is Tuesday, August 1<sup>st</sup>. To register your block or group to hold an event, you can do so on line at [www.cityofseattle.net/police/Nightout](http://www.cityofseattle.net/police/Nightout).

If you want to close your street off, you can indicate that on the registration form. The deadline to register your group for Night Out is Friday, July 27<sup>th</sup>.

Until next time, Take Care and Stay Safe!

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